The report of the Task Force has been circulated to the various Ministries/ Planning Commission and the concerned State Governments. The report of the Task Force is under consideration in the Ministry.

Registered companies under e-Govemance project

†*368. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered companies in the country at present;

(b) whether all companies have been connected under e-governance project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the cost incurred in this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) The number of registered companies in the country is 6,70,354 as on 31.3.2005.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to cover all the companies under the e-governance project.

(c) The Ministry of Company Affairs (MCA) has launched "MCA21 e-Governance Project" on 01.03.2005 with the signing of agreements with the selected operator M/s Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) led-consortium. The project envisages easy and secure online access to all MCA services including registration and filing throughout the country for all citizens, corporates and others at any time. The Programme is focused on improving the quality of services to various stakeholders. It is proposed to be undertaken at a total cost of Rs. 341.214 crore plus Rs. 4.68 crore permissible on account of change in the scope of software. The project is based on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) model and has an implementation cycle of 60 weeks from the date of signing of the contract and thereafter an operation period of 6 years. It is expected that the online services of Registrar of Companies at Coimbatore and Delhi on pilot basis would commence from 41st week *i.e.* by December 2005 onwards and final rollout in all locations by May 2006, after necessary testing and .certifications.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.